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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

TO: Dan Wyant, Director
Michigan Department of Agriculture

FROM: Ken Rauscher, Director
Pesticide & Plant Pest Management Division

RE: Recommendation regarding Emerald Ash Borer Eradication

DATE: February 4, 2004

Starting December 17, 2003, your initial "Determination of Host Plant Nuisance and Proposed Eradication Measures for Emerald Ash Borer" was published in seven newspapers statewide, as well as posted to the MDA website. MDA hosted a public hearing, and a public comment process was established to gather public input regarding this declaration.

To ensure the greatest opportunity for public participation, this hearing was held in a variety of locations across the Lower Peninsula, in areas impacted by Emerald Ash Borer and/or where eradication actions are planned. Specific sites for the hearing were: Lansing, Grand Rapids, Saginaw and Wayne between January 21 and 27, 2004. Additionally, written comments were encouraged and accepted by mail, fax and electronically at a special e-mail address: MDA-EABComments@michigan.gov. To help ensure public awareness of the hearing and comment period/process, a news release announcing these opportunities was sent to media outlets statewide and dozens of follow-up media interviews were conducted.

Tim Flint, state EAB coordinator, Gary King, MDA EAB project manager and I reviewed all of the comments provided as part of the public hearing process. In summary, a total of 44 comments were received by all means: 31 orally; 7 written; and 6 via e-mail. After careful consideration of all of this input, we recommend that the eradication strategy developed by the EAB Task Force, outlined in the public declaration and supported by the EAB National Science Panel, be implemented.

I would point out the eradication strategy received strong support from all of the EAB Task Force partners as well as National Science Panel members, Dr. Deb McCullough, MSU Forest Entomologist and Dr. Robert Waltz, Indiana DNR, Plant Health Specialist. Of all persons providing comments, only one individual opposed the eradication measures.

Enclosed are the following supporting documents:

- A copy of the comment review document
- A copy of the hearing process as described by Bob Tarrant
- A copy of the summary of communication efforts
- A copy of the hearing transcripts and written comments

We appreciate your consideration of this proposed eradication effort for Emerald Ash Borer.